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Human Rights Council
Thirty-second session
Agenda item 3
Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Angola,* Ecuador, El Salvador, Haiti,* Honduras,* Palau,* Peru,* Sudan:* draft resolution

32/... Impact of arms transfers on human rights

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Reaffirming that everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person and is entitled to a social and international order, in which the rights and freedoms set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights can be fully realized,

Recalling the right to self-defence of States and their duty to promote and protect the human rights of their citizens,

Recalling also the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, the Additional Protocols thereto of 8 June 1977, other international human rights law and international humanitarian law instruments, and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, and Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 5/2 and decision 5/101 of 18 June 2007, and resolution 16/21 of 25 March 2011,

Recalling its resolution 24/35 of 27 September 2013,

* State not a member of the Human Rights Council.

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Recalling in particular that the Human Rights Council has the mandate to, inter alia, serve as a forum for dialogue on thematic issues on all human rights,

Acknowledging that millions of people around the world are affected by serious human rights violations and abuses committed or facilitated by the irresponsible use of arms,

Acknowledging also that human rights law and international humanitarian law are complementary and mutually reinforcing,

Recalling the principles and provisions related to international human rights law and international humanitarian law, and to the promotion of responsible action by States, as contained in the Arms Trade Treaty adopted by the General Assembly on 2 April 2013,[1] which entered into force on 24 December 2014, as well as in other relevant instruments,

Reaffirming that all efforts should be made to ensure the cessation of all violations and abuses of, and the full respect for, international human rights law and international humanitarian law in armed conflicts and in peacetime,

Bearing in mind the adoption by the General Assembly of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[2] including target 16.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals, to significantly reduce illegal arms flows,

1. *Expresses its deep concern* at the fact that arms transfers, particularly those that are illicit or unregulated, may seriously undermine the human rights of individuals, especially women, children, the elderly, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups;

2. *Notes with alarm* that such arms transfers can have a seriously negative impact on the human rights of women and girls, who may be disproportionately affected by the widespread availability of arms, as it may increase the risk of sexual and gender-based violence, and of violence against children;

3. *Urges* all States to refrain from transferring arms when they assess, in accordance with applicable national procedures and international obligations and standards, that such arms are sufficiently likely to be used to commit or facilitate serious violations or abuses of international human rights law or international humanitarian law;

4. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to prepare a report, in consultation with States, United Nations agencies and other relevant stakeholders, on the impact of arms transfers on the enjoyment of human rights and to present it to the Human Rights Council at its thirty-fifth session, in order to provide States and other relevant stakeholders with elements to assess the relationship between arms transfers and human rights law that may guide them to strengthen efforts to effectively protect human rights;

5. *Invites* all relevant special procedures, commissions of inquiry and human rights treaty bodies to bear the present resolution in mind, within the framework of their respective mandates;

6. *Decides* to remain seized of this issue.

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[1] General Assembly resolution 67/234 B.

[2] General Assembly resolution 70/1.